

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on March 2, 2005 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Bob Lake, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. John Balyeat (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)  
Rep. Tom Facey (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)  
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Jim Peterson (R)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Scott Sales (R)  
Rep. Bill Warden (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Holly Raser (D)  
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 716, 2/15/2005; HB 729,  
2/15/2005; HJ 27, 2/15/2005

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 716**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:40 REP. GARY MACLAREN (R), HD 89, opened the hearing  
on HB 716, Increase level of exemption for class 8  
property.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:03:35 Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of  
Counties

**Informational Testimony:**

00:04:27 Dolores Cooney, Montana Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:06:48 REP. WARDEN  
00:08:15 REP. LAKE  
00:11:00 REP. BRANAE  
00:12:02 REP. CAMPBELL  
00:13:00 REP. HIMMELBERGER  
00:16:38 REP. LAMBERT  
00:17:49 REP. BUTCHER

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:21:05 REP. GARY MACLAREN (R), HD 89 closed the hearing  
on HB 716.

00:21:57 Break  
00:34:47 Resume

**HEARING ON HJ 27**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:34:56 REP. CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (D), HD 66, opened the  
hearing on HJ 27, Study authorizing extended or  
perpetual trusts.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

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**Informational Testimony:** None.

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**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:41:28      **REP. LAKE**  
00:42:34      **REP. BALYEAT**  
00:44:44      **REP. BUTCHER**

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**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:53      **REP. CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (D), HD 66** closed the  
hearing on **HJ 27**.

**HEARING ON HB 729**

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**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:51:41      **REP. BERNIE OLSON (R), HD 10**, opened the hearing  
on **HB 729**, 4% tax on sale of prepared food.

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**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

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**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:56:57      Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association  
**EXHIBIT** (tah46a01)  
01:00:45      Bob Miller, Bear Claw Bar & Grill, McAllister  
01:04:13      Ralph Ferraro, Ferraro's Italian Restaurant,  
Bozeman  
01:05:42      Gene Fenderson, Montana Progressive Labor Caucus  
01:08:29      Debbie Thomas, Borries Restaurant, Black Eagle  
01:09:55      McKee Anderson, Montana Food Distributors  
Association  
01:12:28      Mark Staples, Montana Tavern Owners Association  
01:13:14      Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of  
Counties  
01:13:50      Rich Miller, Executive Director, Montana Gaming  
Industry

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**Informational Testimony:** None.

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**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:14:27      **REP. BUTCHER**

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**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:17:04      **REP. BERNIE OLSON (R), HD 10** closed the hearing on  
**HB 729**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 9:30 A.M.

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REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

KW/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah46aad0.TIF](#))**